

And to say what the President said, a budget will show you your values. Well, evidently, he doesn't value our next generation.

We all want our children to do better than we did and have it better than we did. How can they do that when he proposes to saddle them with so much debt?

When you look at the national debt that we have, it is held by the public, it is held by foreign governments, and some of it is called intragovernmental debt, which means it is debt that is held by other government agencies.

The Social Security Administration holds about 13 percent of our debt currently. I think this budget puts our seniors at risk and their ability to live a good life in retirement on a program which they funded for so many years from their paychecks.

So, we look at the budget. I have read through it. All these items should be a red flag for anybody that wants to support this.

It is not supporting America's values. It is not supporting our next generation. It is not helping our seniors. It is helping priorities laid forth by a man who has been in Washington, D.C., for 50 years.

Evidently, he has gotten used to spending more than what the revenue brings in in our country.

I remember President Reagan. This is, I believe, the 41st anniversary of the assassination attempt. I think President Reagan, when someone would say, He is spending like a drunken sailor. Then the President would say, Well, at least the sailor is spending his own money.

We are entrusted with the money that the government takes from the citizens of the United States. We need to use it responsibly. We need to invest it in their priorities and not in the priorities of the people inside the beltway.

I think he is too far out of touch, and quite frankly, there are a lot of things that we can't afford.

What we should be looking at is protecting life. We should be looking at being responsible so that our kids are not saddled with so much debt and that our seniors can retire and count on a program they funded their entire lives.

We have already seen the real cost of President Biden's tax-and-spend policies at the pump, in the grocery store, on the farm, and on Main Street America.

It is time we stopped leaving a financial disaster for the next generation and put together a budget that meets the needs of the American people, not the needs of President Biden and Speaker PELOSI.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN ESTEBAN TORRES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today as chair of the Congressional

Hispanic Caucus to pay tribute to a champion for Latinos and Latinas and a leader for all, the late CHC chair, Congressman Esteban Torres.

He did everything in his power to increase Hispanic representation in Congress, dedicated himself to disenfranchised communities, and had an unwavering commitment to equity.

Esteban Torres was born in Arizona in 1930 to a proud Mexican family of migrant and copper mine workers. After the deportation of his father through the disastrous Mexican Repatriation program, his family moved to east Los Angeles. Torres never saw his father again.

As a self-proclaimed barrio kid, he grew up navigating the difficulties of a young Latino male without a father in Los Angeles, but that did not stop him from achieving excellence.

From a young age, Torres was consistently recognized as a peacemaker, consensus builder, and leader in his community.

He knew that leadership meant serving. And when he turned 19, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and fought in the Korean war.

Later in life, the necessities of raising a family pushed Torres to work as a welder on the assembly line at an auto plant. There, he became involved with the labor movement and assumed the role of chief steward in the United Auto Workers union's local branch.

His ability to lead, inspire, and defend workers' rights drove him to become the Nation's director of the Inter-American Bureau for Caribbean and Latin American Affairs, and so he began his political career.

After serving under President Carter as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, and as White House Special Assistant for Hispanic Affairs, Torres represented California's 34th District, the City of Norwalk in the County of Los Angeles, from 1983 until 1999.

From his first year in Congress, he defended workers' rights, protected consumers, advanced environmental justice, and secured veterans' services.

Through it all, he never forgot his community. As chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, he pushed forward transformative legislation for immigrants in our country, such as the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act.

This historic legislation gave legal status to more than 3 million immigrants, ultimately protecting other families from the same horror his family experienced many years back.

Torres also led the CHC at a time when our communities did not have the representation we do today. After eight terms, he expressed: "I have reached the pinnacle of success in my own eyes. It is time to let the younger generation succeed."

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Today, I succeed him as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, a role I

take with much responsibility because I know I have big shoes to fill.

Thanks to his efforts, our communities can feel seen in the 38 members of the CHC that, inspired by Congressman Torres, serve with determination and compassion. I know that we, inspired by the late Congressman Esteban Torres, carry the torch to expand Hispanic representation in Congress and create a House and a Senate that is more representative of our Nation.

Esteban Torres, mentor, leader, amigo, after 91 years of touching lives and changing this Nation, in January 2022 you passed away. You lived a long and impactful life of service, and you left this Nation better than how you found it for future generations. Gracias.

FARM KILLER TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill in 2023, I rise today to deliver the sixth installment of my farm bill impact series, where I am highlighting various aspects of the farm bill that deserve Congress' awareness and support. For this legislation to be effective, it must support the efforts of both today's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers, as well as those of the next generation.

I had planned to get up on the floor today to talk about how America's hope for food security in the future lies on the shoulders of young Americans who are voluntarily bearing the burden of feeding, fueling, and clothing the world. I was going to talk about all the great programs and organizations that we have in this country for young people who are interested in agriculture. I was going to talk about the new Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program through USDA, and the importance of preserving the stepped-up basis in the Tax Code to ensure that family farms in America don't get taxed out of existence.

Then President Biden's disastrous budget came out earlier this week. President Biden threatens the stepped-up basis yet again as we know it in the budget that he just released. If it becomes law, the food security and, therefore, national security of America hangs in the balance.

Here is why the stepped-up basis exists and why it is so important. Let's say you are a young person working on your family's farm, and you are slowly taking on responsibility and risk. You work for your parents in the operation until the time comes for you to inherit the land, equipment, and livestock. When that happens, the Federal Government should not jump in and impose taxes on the unrealized gain of your inherited land and assets. This principle is called the stepped-up basis, which has long been precedent in the Tax Code.

The President's budget imposes new capital gains taxes at death, which will kill family farms. This is appalling. America is trying to recover from a pandemic, and farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers are struggling to survive as they cope with crises that this administration has caused, like the broken supply chain and rampant inflation. And now this administration wants to impose new taxes on these people?

And the President didn't stop there. His budget also includes a new capital gains tax that I am going to call the farm killer tax. In Biden's budget, unbelievably, there is a proposal to impose capital gains taxes on farms that have been in families for over 90 years. Think about that. In 1940, the average cost of Kansas farmland was \$50 per acre. Now, irrigated land is over \$4,000 per acre. Imagine the capital gains tax implications in that history of ownership. This proposal would impose hundreds of thousands of dollars in new capital gains taxes on farmers, killing their businesses overnight.

Again, I was going to stand here today and talk about how important it is for Congress to support farmers, particularly the men and women who operate family-owned-and-operated multi-generational family farms. I was going to talk about how, in the name of supporting America's incredible producers, Congress needs to think carefully and critically about the programs we reauthorize in the 2023 farm bill.

I didn't expect that I would see the farm killer tax in the budget this week. This new tax is not a game-changer, it is a game-ender for thousands of family farms. I am, frankly, in disbelief.

Farming is a multi-generational calling. Farmers, ranchers, and ag producers are my family and friends. They are America's heroes, and the ideas in this budget, threatening the stepped-up basis and imposing the new farm killer tax, are going to destroy the livelihoods of many in agriculture and make our country less secure. The President needs to wake up to reality. Farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers have earned our support, and his budget ideas are the opposite of that. They are a gut punch to the people who feed, fuel, and clothe this Nation.

This week, I am introducing a bipartisan resolution, along with 66 of my colleagues, that supports the preservation of the stepped-up basis, opposes any efforts to impose new taxes on family farms and small businesses, and recognizes the importance of generational transfers of farm and small business operations. Again, this is something I was going to do anyway because of how important preserving the stepped-up basis is. Today, given Biden's disastrous budget, this message is more important.

If we want to invest in the future of our country, which I think we can all agree that we do, we need to invest in the next generation of America's farmers, ranchers, and ag producers. I will

be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my farm bill impact series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America. Hopefully, when I am standing here to speak next time, I won't have to address any more ideas that this administration may have had for destroying the livelihoods of America's farmers, ranchers, and ag producers. We must kill Biden's farm killer tax.

STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, inflation is a challenge for families. I feel it myself as a single mom raising three kids. Historically, the standard approaches to reduce inflation are to raise interest rates and to lower wages. Some people are calling for these same misguided approaches today. This is wrongheaded. Families need lower costs, not less money in their pockets.

We can bring prices down by increasing supply, for example, by expanding energy capacity with more green energy. The America COMPETES Act, which I supported, will strengthen our supply chains and increase our domestic manufacturing of technology.

We can also bring prices down by cracking down on corporate abuse. We can reduce healthcare costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, lower grocery costs by increasing competition in the meatpacking industry, and stop Big Oil from price gouging.

These policies will lower costs without lowering wages. We can strengthen our capitalist economy and rein in inflation. Families need us to address inflation. They need lower costs, not lower wages.

BUDGET CUTS LIMIT IRS

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, the IRS backlog is over 7 million tax returns. That is unacceptable. On the Oversight and Reform Committee, I am holding the IRS accountable to eliminate this backlog quickly.

Families need their tax refunds to pay rent and buy food. Small business owners need their refunds to keep their doors open. It is their money, and the government should promptly return it.

My office has helped Orange County residents cut through red tape and get answers from the IRS. We have helped nearly 500 taxpayers collectively recover over half a million dollars. I am proud of these wins, but the solution here cannot be individual intervention. Years of budget cuts have limited the IRS' ability to operate effectively and efficiently.

IRS employees are working hard. I thank them. But the IRS needs resources, and the taxpayers need assistance. Every Congress Member should vote to fully fund the IRS. As a taxpayer advocate, I will keep pushing to save taxpayers time and money.

CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, Orange County is leading the way on clean energy solutions. Businesses in our community are spearheading innovative technologies to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. These businesses represent the best of our capitalist economy. They create jobs and lead in innovation. I am proud to represent a district that ranks among the top five in the most clean energy jobs in the country.

However, as Earth Day approaches, we must also recognize that these cutting-edge businesses face an uneven playing field. Big Oil and gas companies have unfair tax breaks and other advantages that inhibit competition that we need for healthy capitalism. Long term, this will make it harder for our economy to stand up against our global competitors.

The hard work of Orange County businesses that they are putting in to develop new and efficient methods of producing clean energy represents the best of our capitalist economy. To remain competitive, we have to lift up new and innovative technologies.

CONGRATULATING NEAL KELLEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, free and fair elections are the bedrock of our democracy. Regardless of their ideology, their identity, or where they live, all eligible voters should be able to cast their ballots freely and safely.

In Orange County, the registrar of voters facilitates elections for more than 1.8 million registered voters. As chief election official in Orange County, Neal Kelley safeguarded equal access to the ballot box and protected the integrity of our elections. He innovated to improve efficiency and reliability of voting, adopting technology that increased transparency and voter turnout.

He retired on March 10 after 17 years of remarkable service. Neal Kelley is a model public servant we can all learn from. On behalf of Orange County voters, I congratulate Mr. Kelley on his retirement and thank him for his service to our democracy.

IOWA BUSINESSES INNOVATE DURING PANDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on an issue that has directly impacted businesses and farmers across Iowa's Second Congressional District.

The last few years have been challenging for all of us. Manufacturing has been hit hard, with rising costs and supply chain disruptions impacting numerous sectors of our economy.

Although much of life has returned to normal since the pandemic began, the slow movement of goods through our economy is creating major headaches for American families. Empty